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## ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

Founded by JOSEPH PULITZER

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## THE POST-DISPATCH PLATFORM

I KNOW THAT MY RETIREMENT WILL MAKE NO DIFFERENCE IN ITS CARDINAL PRINCIPLES, THAT IT WILL ALWAYS FIGHT FOR PROGRESS AND REFORM, NEVER TOLERATE INJUSTICE OR CORRUPTION, ALWAYS FIGHT DEMAGOGUES OF ALL PARTIES, NEVER BELONG TO ANY PARTY, ALWAYS OPPOSE PRIVILEGED CLASSES AND PUBLIC PLUNDERERS, NEVER LACK SYMPATHY WITH THE POOR, ALWAYS REMAIN DEVOTED TO THE PUBLIC WELFARE, NEVER BE SATISFIED WITH MERELY PRINTING NEWS, ALWAYS BE DRASTICALLY INDEPENDENT, NEVER BE AFRAID TO ATTACK WRONG, WHETHER BY PREDATORY PLUTOCRACY OR PREDATORY POVERTY.

JOSEPH PULITZER

April 10, 1907

Tuesday, Nov. 10, 1959

## Letters from the People

## Everybody Spies

No one who has been assigned to the Foreign Service or who has attended government intelligence and counter-intelligence schools of any nation will doubt for a moment the statement of Russell A. Langella, U.S. Embassy security official, Moscow, that the Russians are attempting to penetrate the American Embassy in Moscow.

What he didn't say and what the American people in general do not know, but should, is that the governments of all great powers and most secondary ones are trying continuously to do the same thing.

This is standard operating procedure, otherwise known as "old hat" to the informed everywhere. Spying is an essential ingredient of the present cold war and is as old as the nation-state system itself. Governments not only spy upon their opponents, but also upon their friends. The cloak-and-dagger system is not something reserved for the Mafia. It is one of the weapons in the arsenal of every nation and is in constant use. But like the family skeleton, it is not discussed publicly or ever admitted officially.

Denial, in fact, is automatic in every foreign office everywhere. Never to my knowledge has any government ever admitted that these dark agents, even when caught red-handed, were acting under its instructions. This again is part of the state system.

It is very important for the American people to note that the first casualty in any war, hot or cold, is truth, and always has been. It is not that the individuals engaged in international subversion are themselves immoral, but rather that the system itself is amoral.

Hugh B. Hester,  
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Philadelphia